



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

April 17, 2007

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**REALLOCATE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND IN THE MARSHALL CANYON CONSERVATION
CORRIDOR, AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS
GRANT AMENDMENT AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF
A WRITTEN CONSENT TO TRANSFER PROPERTY
(FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Reallocate Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) in the amount of \$190,000 for the acquisition of 64.26 acres of unimproved open space, known as the Tevis Hill property, located adjacent to and easterly of Marshall Canyon Regional Park.
2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to (a) amend a grant to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) previously awarded, when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the amended grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified and Per Parcel Projects and (b) execute a written consent to transfer the above referenced Tevis Hill property by TPL to the County of Los Angeles, subject to the County's assumption of all the obligations of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 (the Propositions) and acceptance of the assignment of the amended grant agreement for the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will reallocate an existing unexpended balance of \$190,000 of Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funding previously granted to TPL to enable it, with the addition of new State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant funding, to purchase 64.26 acres of unimproved real property in the Marshall Canyon area, known as the Tevis Hill property, and, as a related item on today's agenda, to donate this property to the County to preserve it as open space and natural habitat.

On June 20, 2006, your Board approved the assignment of \$1,000,000 in Fifth Supervisorial District County Excess Funds to TPL to be used in conjunction with WCB grant funding for the purchase and donation to the County of 80 acres of land adjacent to the Marshall Canyon Regional Park known as the Marshall Canyon Conservation Corridor. As a result of this transaction and the transfer of title to the County, TPL expended \$810,000 of the \$1,000,000 of County Excess Funds, leaving an unexpended balance of \$190,000. It is now recommended that your Board reallocate and re-designate the remaining \$190,000 to be used in combination with a new \$1.735 million WCB grant awarded to TPL on February 25, 2007, to purchase and donate to the County the subject 64.26 acre Tevis Hill property. The total purchase price for TPL to acquire the Tevis Hill property is \$1,925,000, of which \$1,735,000 will be funded from the WCB grant and the re-allocation of \$190,000 of Fifth Supervisorial County Excess Funds.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Propositions encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department of Parks and Recreation meets this requirement.

Accordingly, as part of this action, it is recommended that your Board authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to award and transfer the \$190,000 grant amendment to TPL, when all applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the amended grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

Upon transfer of title to the property from TPL to the County, it is also recommended that your Board authorize the Director to take such other actions necessary to comply with District requirements and regulations.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services) by allocating Excess Funds for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the amended grant in the amount of \$190,000 is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended amended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant amendment when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 17, 1997, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants for Specified and Per Parcel projects. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended amended grant as well.

County Counsel has reviewed these actions.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement Amendment will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997. The Project Agreement Amendment will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded through the District, but are required so that the Trust for Public Land may proceed on the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County and transfer such property to the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed District actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they do not meet the definition of a project in Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, since they are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

All projects funded by the District are required to comply with CEQA. The County of Los Angeles, as the lead agency, has determined and is recommending in the related item on today's agenda, that your Board find that the acquisition of this property is categorically exempt from CEQA.

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CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel